

OCT 03 2006

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended, and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 13-15, 19 and 20 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by *Pangle* (4,364,142) or in the alternative under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over *Pangle*. Claims 5 and 10-12 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Pangle*. Accordingly, claims 1, 4-7, 10-15, 19 and 20 remain active in the present application.

Considering the rejection of claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 13-15, 19, and 20 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by *Pangle*, it is submitted that applicant's claim 1, the sole independent claim under this rejection, has been amended so as to overcome the subject rejection. In particular, claim 1 has been amended to define the claimed animal sweat scraper as having a sheath which completely envelopes at least a portion of the core between the longitudinally curved scraper blade and the handle.

A review of *Pangle* fails to disclose any analogous structure. Rather, *Pangle* discloses a generally rectangular core defining a blade and a handle. The indicated sheath (reference number 13) fails to satisfy the claim limitation of completely encasing the core at any point along its length, including, in particular, any point between the blade and the handle. In fact, it is respectfully submitted that the sheath of *Pangle* merely encircles the outer perimeter of the blade portion of the core.

With regard to the alternate rejection of claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 13-15, 19 and 20 under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over *Pangle*, it is respectfully submitted that none of the known or cited prior art, alone or in combination with each other, obviates claim 1 as presently amended.

It is submitted that applicant's remaining dependent claims, which depend from and further limit claim 1, also patentably define over *Pangle*.

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With regard to the rejection of claims 5 and 10-12 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Pangle*, it is submitted that for the reasons indicated above applicant's claims 5 and 10-12 which depend from claim 1, as amended, patentably define over *Pangle*.

Respectfully submitted,

SUNBEAM PRODUCTS, INC.

By: Charles R. Ducker, Jr.
Charles R. Ducker, Jr., Reg. No. 46,542
2381 Executive Center Drive
Boca Raton, FL 33431
Tel. No. (561) 912-4843
Fax No. (561) 912-4182